

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS**

Please replace all prior listings of the claims with the following:

**IN THE CLAIMS:**

Claims 1-16. (Canceled).

Claim 17. (Currently Amended): A method of ~~preventing or~~ ameliorating liver diseases associated with hepatopathy wherein comprising administering an omega-9 unsaturated fatty acid or a compound having an omega-9 unsaturated fatty acid as a constituent fatty acid is administered as an active component to a subject in need thereof to ameliorate liver diseases associated with hepatopathy.

Claim 18. (Original): The method according to claim 17 wherein said compound having an omega-9 unsaturated fatty acid as a constituent fatty acid is an alcohol ester of an omega-9 unsaturated fatty acid, a monoglyceride, a diglyceride and/or a triglyceride, or a phospholipid having an omega-9 unsaturated fatty acid as a constituent fatty acid.

Claim 19. (Original): The method according to claim 18 wherein said triglyceride having an omega-9 unsaturated fatty acid as a constituent fatty acid contains 20% or more of the omega-9 unsaturated fatty acid relative to the total fatty acids constituting said triglyceride.

Claim 20. (Previously Presented): The method according to claim 17 wherein said omega-9 unsaturated fatty acid is at least one selected from the group consisting of 6,9-octadecadienoic acid (18:2 ω9), 8,11-eicosadienoic acid (20:2 ω9) and 5,8,11-eicosatrienoic acid (20:3 ω9).

Claim 21. (Previously Presented): The method according to claim 17 wherein said triglyceride having an omega-9 unsaturated fatty acid as a constituent fatty acid is obtained by

culturing a microorganism having a reduced or absent  $\Delta 12$  unsaturating enzyme activity in a medium, said microorganism being obtained by the mutation treatment of a microorganism belonging to genus *Mortierella*, genus *Conidiobolus*, genus *Phythium*, genus *Phytophthora*, genus *Penicillium*, genus *Cladosporium*, genus *Mucor*, genus *Fusarium*, genus *Aspergillus*, genus *Rhodotorula*, genus *Entomophthora*, genus *Echinosporangium*, or genus *Saprolegnia* and being capable of producing arachidonic acid, and then extracting from said culture.

Claim 22. (Previously Presented): The method according to claim 17 wherein said liver diseases associated with hepatopathy are acute or chronic hepatitis.

Claim 23. (Previously Presented): The method according to claim 17 wherein said liver diseases associated with hepatopathy are acute hepatic insufficiency, liver cirrhosis and/or hepatoma.

Claim 24. (Currently Amended): A method of preventing or ameliorating liver diseases associated with hepatopathy which comprises comprising providing a composition or a food or drink containing an omega-9 unsaturated fatty acid or a compound having an omega-9 unsaturated fatty acid as a constituent fatty acid as an active component to a subject in need thereof to ameliorate liver diseases associated with hepatopathy.

Claim 25. (Original): The method according to claim 24 wherein said compound having an omega-9 unsaturated fatty acid as a constituent fatty acid is an alcohol ester of an omega-9 unsaturated fatty acid, a monoglyceride, a diglyceride and/or a triglyceride, or a phospholipid having an omega-9 unsaturated fatty acid as a constituent fatty acid.

Claim 26. (Original): The method according to claim 25 wherein said triglyceride having an omega-9 unsaturated fatty acid as a constituent fatty acid contains 20% or more of the omega-9 unsaturated fatty acid relative to the total fatty acids constituting said triglyceride.

Claim 27. (Previously Presented): The method according to claim 24 wherein said omega-9 unsaturated fatty acid is at least one selected from the group consisting of 6,9-octadecadienoic acid (18:2  $\omega$ 9), 8,11-eicosadienoic acid (20:2  $\omega$ 9) and 5,8,11-eicosatrienoic acid (20:3  $\omega$ 9).

Claim 28. (Previously Presented): The method according to claim 24 wherein said triglyceride having an omega-9 unsaturated fatty acid as a constituent fatty acid is obtained by culturing a microorganism having a reduced or absent  $\Delta$ 12 unsaturating enzyme activity in a medium, said microorganism being obtained by the mutation treatment of a microorganism belonging to genus *Mortierella*, genus *Conidiobolus*, genus *Phythium*, genus *Phytophthora*, genus *Penicillium*, genus *Cladosporium*, genus *Mucor*, genus *Fusarium*, genus *Aspergillus*, genus *Rhodotorula*, genus *Entomophthora*, genus *Echinoporangium*, or genus *Saprolegnia* and being capable of producing arachidonic acid, and then extracting it from said culture.

Claim 29. (Previously Presented): The method according to claim 24 wherein said liver diseases associated with hepatopathy are acute or chronic hepatitis.

Claim 30. (Previously Presented): The method according to claim 24 wherein said liver diseases associated with hepatopathy are acute hepatic insufficiency, liver cirrhosis and/or hepatoma.

Claim 31. (Previously Presented): The method according to claim 24 wherein said a food or drink are functional foods, nutrient supplements, specified health foods or foods for old people.

Claim 32. (Currently Amended): A ~~use of an omega-9 unsaturated fatty acid or a compound having an omega-9 unsaturated fatty acid as a constituent fatty acid for the preparation of a preventive or method of preparing an~~ ameliorating agent for liver diseases associated with hepatopathy comprising using an omega-9 unsaturated fatty acid or a compound

having an omega-9 unsaturated fatty acid as a constituent fatty acid as an active component to prepare the ameliorating agent for liver diseases associated with hepatopathy.

Claim 33. (Currently Amended): The [[use]] method according to claim 32 wherein said compound having an omega-9 unsaturated fatty acid as a constituent fatty acid is an alcohol ester of an omega-9 unsaturated fatty acid, a monoglyceride, a diglyceride and/or a triglyceride, or a phospholipid having an omega-9 unsaturated fatty acid as a constituent fatty acid.

Claim 34. (Currently Amended): The [[use]] method according to claim 33 wherein said triglyceride having an omega-9 unsaturated fatty acid as a constituent fatty acid contains 20% or more of the omega-9 unsaturated fatty acid relative to the total fatty acids constituting said triglyceride.

Claim 35. (Currently Amended): The [[use]] method according to claim 32 wherein said omega-9 unsaturated fatty acid is at least one selected from the group consisting of 6,9-octadecadienoic acid (18:2  $\omega$ 9), 8,11-eicosadienoic acid (20:2  $\omega$ 9) and 5,8,11-eicosatrienoic acid (20:3  $\omega$ 9).

Claim 36. (Currently Amended): The [[use]] method according to claim 32 wherein said triglyceride having an omega-9 unsaturated fatty acid as a constituent fatty acid is obtained by culturing a microorganism having a reduced or absent  $\Delta$ 12 unsaturating enzyme activity in a medium, said microorganism being obtained by the mutation treatment of a microorganism belonging to genus *Mortierella*, genus *Conidiobolus*, genus *Phythium*, genus *Phytophthora*, genus *Penicillium*, genus *Cladosporium*, genus *Mucor*, genus *Fusarium*, genus *Aspergillus*, genus *Rhodotorula*, genus *Entomophthora*, genus *Echinoporangium*, or genus *Saprolegnia* and being capable of producing arachidonic acid, and then extracting it from said culture.

Claim 37. (Currently Amended): The [[use]] method according to claim 32 wherein said liver diseases associated with hepatopathy are acute or chronic hepatitis.

Claim 38. (Currently Amended): The [[use]] method according to claim 32 wherein said liver diseases associated with hepatopathy are acute hepatic insufficiency, liver cirrhosis and/or hepatoma.

Claim 39. (Currently Amended): The [[use]] method of an omega-9 unsaturated fatty acid or a compound having an omega-9 unsaturated fatty acid as a constituent fatty acid for the preparation of a composition or a food or drink having an effect of preventing or ameliorating liver diseases associated with hepatopathy.

Claim 40. (Currently Amended): The [[use]] method according to claim 39 wherein said compound having an omega-9 unsaturated fatty acid as a constituent fatty acid is an alcohol ester of an omega-9 unsaturated fatty acid, a monoglyceride, a diglyceride and/or a triglyceride, or a phospholipid having an omega-9 unsaturated fatty acid as a constituent fatty acid.

Claim 41. (Currently Amended): The [[use]] method according to claim 40 wherein said triglyceride having an omega-9 unsaturated fatty acid as a constituent fatty acid contains 20% or more of the omega-9 unsaturated fatty acid relative to the total fatty acids constituting said triglyceride.

Claim 42. (Currently Amended): The [[use]] method according to claim 39 wherein said omega-9 unsaturated fatty acid is at least one selected from the group consisting of 6,9-octadecadienoic acid (18:2 ω9), 8,11-eicosadienoic acid (20:2 ω9) and 5,8,11-eicosatrienoic acid (20:3 ω9).

Claim 43. (Currently Amended): The [[use]] method according to claim 39 wherein said triglyceride having an omega-9 unsaturated fatty acid as a constituent fatty acid is obtained by culturing a microorganism having a reduced or absent Δ12 unsaturating enzyme activity in a medium, said microorganism being obtained by the mutation treatment of a microorganism

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belonging to genus Mortierella, genus Conidiobolus, genus Phythium, genus Phytophthora, genus Penicillium, genus Cladosporium, genus Mucor, genus Fusarium, genus Aspergillus, genus Rhodotorula, genus Entomophthora, genus Echinosporangium, or genus Saprolegnia and being capable of producing arachidonic acid, and then extracting it from said culture.

Claim 44. (Currently Amended): The [[use]] method according to claim 39 wherein said liver diseases associated with hepatopathy are acute or chronic hepatitis.

Claim 45. (Currently Amended): The [[use]] method according to claim 39 wherein said liver diseases associated with hepatopathy are acute hepatic insufficiency, liver cirrhosis and/or hepatoma.

Claim 46. (Currently Amended): The [[use]] method according to claim 39 wherein said a food or drink are functional foods, nutrient supplements, specified health foods or foods for old people.